

1911

PROGRAMME.

"Bring the brain to act upon the heart."—"Mr. Caxton,"
in *The Caxtons*, by Lord Lytton.

Monday, July 10th.

Afternoon.

3 p.m. **Local Secretaries' Meeting**, in the Staff Common Room.

3.45 p.m. Members of the Conference will be received by Mr. and Mrs. W. M. CHILDS, and after the Reception the Principal of University College will address a few words of welcome to the Members. Lady Campbell will reply.

4.30 p.m. The Reading Executive Committee invite those attending the Conference to refreshments, which will be provided (if fine) on the Students' Lawn.

5 p.m. **A Meeting**, arranged under the auspices of The Co-Educational Public Schools Trust, Ltd., will be held (by permission) to discuss the Co-Education of boys and girls up to University age. Speakers: The Rev. Canon RAWNSLEY, M.A.; Mr. NORMAN HODGSON, B.A.

Evening.

8.30 p.m. G. R. PARKIN, Esq., LL.D., C.M.G., in the Chair.

2 o'clock

W. M. CHILDS, Esq., M.A. (Principal of University College). "The Essentials of a University Education."

Tuesday, July 11th.

Morning.

10.30 a.m. Sir W. OSLER, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford, in the Chair.

11 o'clock

W. H. MARRIS, Esq., M.D.: "How to safeguard the Nervous System."

11.45 a.m. The Rev. W. CHARLES EPPSTEIN, D.D., F.R.A.S., Head Master of Reading School, in the Chair.

16.0 Mrs. HICKSON (Principal of Oldfield School, Swanage): "The value of Mathematics in the formation of Character."

16.0 Miss LUCY ASHCROFT, M.A., Lecturer in Mathematics, University College, Reading: "The Study of Elementary Mathematics."

Afternoon.

2.30 p.m. The MAYOR OF READING in the Chair E. JOHNSTON, Esq., Professor of Lettering and Writing, South Kensington Art Institution: "The Teaching of Writing as Penmanship."

3.30 p.m. W. A. MOUNT, Esq., M.P., in the Chair. Mrs. ALLEN HARKER. "The Land of Make-Believe."

18.0 5 p.m. Reception at the Reading High School for Girls (by kind invitation of the Council and Miss H. E. MUSSON). The High School is situate in Kendrick Road about three to four minutes' walk from the College.

Evening.

8.30 p.m. Sir WALTER PARRATT, Mus. Doc., M.V.O., in the Chair.

2.00 WALTER FORD, Esq.: "Songs for Children," with Illustrations.

Wednesday, July 12th.

Morning.

10.30 a.m. F. ANSTRUTHER GOUGH CALTHORPE, Esq., in the Chair.

12.0 W. W. VAUGHAN, Esq., M.A., Master of Wellington: "Our Distractions."

11.45 a.m. The Ven. THE ARCHDEACON OF BERKSHIRE in the Chair.

15.0 Mrs. PHILLP: "Authority and Independence."

Afternoon.

2.30 p.m. ALFRED PALMER, Esq., J.P., in the Chair.

11.0 Miss CRACKNELL, of the West Moors School of Nature Study and Gardening, Dorset: "The Advantages of Teaching Gardening to Children."

3.30 p.m. 12.0 Miss EMMA L. TURNER, F.L.S. (in the Physics Theatre): "How to inspire in Children a love and knowledge of Birds," with Lantern Illustrations.

4.45 p.m. Garden Party at S. Andrew's Hall, by kind invitation of Mr. ALFRED PALMER, Chairman of Council of University College, Reading, and Mrs. PALMER.

6.30 p.m. In the College Hall Pianoforte Recitals will be given by ARTIST STUDENTS OF Mr. EVELYN HOWARD-JONES.

Thursday, July 13th.

Morning.

10.30 a.m. The LADY WANTAGE, R.R.C., in the Chair.

12.0 Miss SOULSBY, Headmistress of Manor House School, Brondesbury: "Training for, and by, Home Life."

11.45 a.m. Mrs. HOWARD GLOVER in the Chair. Mrs. F. T. SWANWICK, M.A.: "University Life in its effect on Character and Thought."

Afternoon.

2.30 p.m. The Rev. H. COSTLEY WHITE, M.A., Headmaster of Bradfield College, in the Chair.

15.0 The Right Rev. The LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD, D.D.: "The Needs of the Spirit."

3.30 p.m. Principal W. M. CHILDS, M.A., in the Chair.

16.0 The Hon. Mrs. FRANKLIN: Valedictory Address.

4.30 p.m. The London Executive Committee invite those attending the Conference to refreshments.

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DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE FROM ASSOCIATIONS, &c.

NOTE.—In this and the following lists the addresses in parenthesis are the addresses during the Conference where they differ from the home address.

Representing the Association o' Head Mistresses.

Miss Holmes, Queen Anne's School, Caversham.
Miss Musson, The High School, Reading.
Miss Rundell, Kendrick Girls' School, Reading.

Representing the Association of Preparatory Schools.

G. Gidley Robinson, Esq., 27, Donnington Square, Newbury.
Rev. W. Earle, Bilton Grange, Rugby.

Representing the Catholic Women's League.

Lady Winifride Elwes, 48, Onslow Gardens, S.W.
Mrs. Philip Gibbs, 36, Holland Street, Kensington, W.

Representing the Central Bureau for the Employment Women.

Miss M. G. Spencer, 5, Prince's Street, Cavendish Square, W.

Representing the Church Schools Company, Limited.

W. Whitaker Thompson, Esq., 24, Argyll Road, Kensington, W.

Representing the English Association.

Miss E. J. Morley, University College, Reading.

Representing the Girls' Public Day School Trust, Limited.

Miss Grenfell, Henley-on-Thames.

Representing the Head Masters' Conference.

W. W. Vaughan, Esq., M.A., The Master of Wellington.
The Rev. H. Costley White, M.A., Head Master of Bradfield College.

Representing the Incorporated Association of Assistant Mistresses.

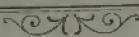
Miss Sacret, Secondary School, Swindon.

Please return

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Parents' National Educational Union.

VICTORIAN BRANCH.



THE EDUCATION OF OUR GIRLS.

IS A CHANGE DESIRABLE?

Dear Sir or Madam,

The question of the appropriate education of girls has been under discussion at several public meetings of this branch of the Parents' National Educational Union during the last twelve months. While fully recognising the importance of the development of feminine education which has taken place during the last fifty years, those concerned in watching its effect on the community are beginning to doubt whether the right path is now being pursued. In the earlier days of the movement for the emancipation of women it was doubtless necessary to vindicate the rights of girls to a proper measure of mental culture. The need to prove their capacity no longer exists. But though a wider horizon has thus been opened to girls, there are signs that they are in danger of losing their bearings. The woman is the home-maker, and if home is no longer the centre of her world, however wide that world may be, she is not fulfilling the purpose of her being. Is it not possible to devise such a scheme of education as will allow our girls to become large-natured women, responsive to all the various calls of modern life, not dwarfed in any part of their being, least of all in that which is essentially womanly?

While to those who will enter the professions or commercial life specialised work for examinations may be inevitable, it is felt by many that the majority of girls are injured by a curriculum dominated by examinations. Thoroughness and

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definiteness of aim in school work can be preserved in other and better ways. At present the great majority of girls do not go on to professional life. Whether a girl enters business life, or the life of the home, she could be equipped for her work by an education of freer scope and more liberal standard than that prescribed by the "Junior Public"—an education which would be at least so far broader as to include, in addition to the fundamental subjects, English, Arithmetic, etc., the living interests of the girl developing into womanhood.

Such an education would, it is hoped, do away with the late hours, excessive study and overstrain, which seem for most girls to be inseparably connected with the present system of working for examinations. This broader scheme could provide for the development of a true love of literature, which would lead to general reading for its own sake after school days are over. It could instil a love of art, which would not only widen the interests of a girl, but would reflect itself in her home surroundings. History, Political Economy and Geography could then be taught with direct reference to the duties of the citizen towards the community, and the import of sociological, political and national questions could be intelligently grasped. A knowledge of home economics could be cultivated and raised to a high position in public estimation, while the encouragement of rational hobbies and serviceable handicrafts might be made to develop the love of scientific study and manual skill. In many of the best English girls' schools this is already being done with much success.

Such a scheme would perhaps necessitate the separate education of girls and boys. After a certain age such separation would probably be inevitable. It might further necessitate a division of the upper portion of girls' schools into classes with professional and non-professional objects respectively. This would doubtless be a matter of ways and means, arrangement of time tables, and other considerations for which a natural adjustment will be found in due season.

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Should such a change in girls' education be desirable it will only be effected by the sympathetic co-operation of both parents and teachers. Our first duty is to realise clearly what our ideals are; our second will be to plan an education in accordance with them.

The Council would therefore be greatly indebted if you would be good enough to answer the question submitted, so that the opinions of those who have most carefully thought out the matter may be ascertained. If you could give the time to submit a brief outline of the most desirable scheme of education for a girl, your kindness and help would be greatly appreciated.

Should a general desire to alter the present system be shown by the replies received, it is proposed to take steps at an early date to bring the whole subject under public notice, and to achieve some practical outcome.

The question submitted by the Council is the following :—

Supposing external examinations to be removed, what in your opinion would be an ideal education for the average girl, and at what age should the several parts begin?

Yours faithfully,

T. G. TUCKER, President.

GERTRUDE E. H. AVERY, Hon. Sec.

(It is requested that replies be forwarded as early as early as possible to Mrs. Avery, 461 Barker's Road, East Kew).